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UNCLAS MUSCAT 001356

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/ARPI, NEA/PPD, NEA/P, INR/R/MR

LONDON FOR TSOU

PARIS FOR ZEYA

USCENTCOM FOR PLUSH

FOREIGN PRESS CENTER FOR SILAS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KPAO](#) [KMDR](#) [OIIP](#) [MU](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: HURRICANE KATRINA, PALESTINE

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Nature And Politics  
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[1](#)1. The privately owned Arabic daily "al-Watan" published an editorial entitled "The Moment Of Truth" on September 3:

"The entire world sympathized with the victims of Hurricane Katrina, despite the differences of political opinion that exist between the U.S. and the rest of the world. However, it is strange for America, which possesses the largest economy in the world, to ask for help from foreign countries. Where are those individuals who dedicated billions of dollars to fighting wars under the banner of anti-terrorism, or to punishing countries suspected of having nuclear programs? How is it that the U.S. cannot provide 5,000 vehicles to evacuate victims from the hurricane, when double this number is sent to Iraq on a regular basis?"

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What The World Needs Now  
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[1](#)2. "Oman," the government-owned Arabic daily, ran an editorial on September 4 under the headline "Cooperation Is Needed To Confront International Catastrophes":

"America now understands that sometimes it needs the assistance of other countries: first with the situations in Afghanistan and Iraq, and recently with Hurricane Katrina. These catastrophes demonstrate that no nation can cope with such damaging events completely by themselves. The world has many problems, including war, AIDS, and economic backwardness, and we must work collectively to reduce them."

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Confusing The Issue  
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[1](#)3. "Al-Watan" featured an editorial on September 1 entitled "Mixing Terrorism And Legal Resistance":

"The Palestinians continue to suffer at the hands of the Israelis, and yet President Bush still asks for more concessions. Sharon and Bush view the Palestinian resistance fighters as terrorists, while the rest of the world sees them as legitimate defenders of Palestine's legal rights. This is the biggest mistake, to confuse international terrorism with the right of self-defense. Washington is speaking on behalf of Israel when it mixes terrorism with legal resistance."

BALTIMORE